

**SIGANUS FORSSKÅL, 1775 (PISCES, SIGANIDAE): PROPOSED
VALIDATION UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS. Z.N.(S.) 1721**

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The purpose of the present application is to validate the use of the alleged generic name *Siganus* Forsskål, 1775, in the commonly adopted sense.

2. Forsskål (1775* – *Descriptiones Animalium*: X) mentioned a generic name, *Scarus*, with ten nominal species included, each of them referring to a new species. In connection with the first-mentioned of these species another generic name *Siganus*, is introduced. The original text in Forsskål (1775 : X) reads as follows:

SCARUS: novum genus. Σκαῖρος.

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|-----|----|---|----------------------|
| 9. | a) | RIVULATUS: Djezavi vel Sigañt. سيجان | nov. genus: SIGANUS. |
| 10. | b) | STELLATUS. Glsjrláu. عيتان | |
| 11. | c) | GALLUS; venenatus. Dik el hábr. | |
| 12. | d) | PURPUREUS; psittacus inarinus. Durra el bábr. درة البحر | |
| 13. | e) | GHOBBAN; lituratus. Gbolban. | |
| 14. | f) | NIGER. Cbadri. | |
| 15. | g) | FERRUGINEUS; ore viridi. Abu meles. | |
| 16. | h) | PSITTACUS; viridi-flavus. Durra el barr. درة البر | |
| 17. | i) | HARID. Cauda bafi squamosa. Harid. حريت | |
| 18. | k) | SORDIDUS; fulco-ferrugineus. Biff. | |

3. Forsskål (1775 : 25–26) gives a description of the new genus, *Scarus*, followed by a description of the new species *rivulatus* (see p. 27).

4. As shown by the facsimile of pages 25–26 the specific name *rivulatus* is combined with two generic names, *Scarus*, and in smaller capitals, *Siganus*. Judging alone from the last-mentioned facsimile, it could be concluded that *Siganus* was proposed as an alternative specific name for *rivulatus*, but this interpretation is not the least favoured by the facsimile of page X. On this page Forsskål evidently states that *Siganus* is a generic name. Furthermore, the note on page 26 refers only to the genus *Siganus*.

5. The present analysis shows that *Siganus* is an available name, which was introduced by Forsskål for a single species, *rivulatus*, which thus is to be regarded as the type-species of the genus (by monotypy).

6. The name *Siganus* Forsskål, 1775 (the type of the type-species is preserved in the collections of Universitetets zoologiske Museum, Copenhagen, Denmark) has long been generally accepted, and it would serve no useful purpose to abandon this usage. Moreover, a family name has been formed and is in general use, viz. SIGANIDAE Rutter, 1897 (*Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philad.* : 79).

7. The generic name *Scarus* Gronow, 1763 was suppressed by Opinion 261,

* Incorrectly spelled Forskål in the posthumous work published by Niebuhr in 1775.

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SCARUS.

SCARUS novum genus antiquo nomine Σαράκος. CHARACTER
 GENERICUS: *Dentium loco maxillæ ipsæ eminentes, margi-*
ne dentato-crenatæ, offeæ.

9. SCARUS SIGANUS; RIVULATUS; *maxillis continuis, complanatis, margine*
ferrato-denticulatis: denticulis approximatis, filiformibus; a medio labio
paulatim decrescentibus.

DESCR. *Branch.* radii 5. *Opercula* integerrima. *Spinæ* dorsales & ani in
 fossula recumbunt. *P. ventrales* radio primo & ultimo spinoso, for-
 tiore. *P. ani* radii spinosi. *Squamæ* minutissimæ. *Ramenta* post spi-
 nas dorsales exilia ad apicem. *Cæruleus*, maculis nigris, rivulis fla-
 vis longitudinalibus. *Spina* ante pinnam D. *Cauda* bifida. *Radii*
Ventr. primus & ultimus pungentes. *Radios* spinosos venenum ferre
 purant; quia locus vulneratus, inflammatur cum tumore & ardore;
 post aliquot horas cessante. *Piscis* edulis; sed nescio quam incalescendi
 vim ei adscribant. *Vitit*at herbis, imprimis *Zosteræ*. *Adipe* carbo-
 nibus ignitis liquefacto, ungunt genua, gonagra laborantes. *Piscis* *Lo-*
hajæ $\frac{1}{2}$ uln. longus; *Basræ* fere uloz.

RAD. B. 5. D. $\frac{13}{23}$. P. 15. V. $\frac{7-8}{1 \text{ vel } 4}$. A. $\frac{7}{12}$. C. 17.

Arab. *Djezavi*.

D

Obs.

26

PISCES.

Obs. Videtur genus proprium una cum sequente constituere; quum habi-
 tus prorsus proprius. Nomen *Sigani* desumptum ex Arab. *Sidjan*. vel *Si-*
gian. سيجان

which rejected all the names published in "Zoophylacium Gronovianum" (1763) as non-binominal. Thus it follows that *Scarus* Forsskål, 1775 is validated.

8. The discrepancies in Forsskål's paper (1775) might be explained by the fact that it was published posthumously from his field notes. Forsskål did not directly indicate a type-species of the genus *Siganus*. Jordan (1917 - *Genera of Fishes*) seems to have been the first to choose a type viz. *rivulatus*.

9. However, in order to put an end to all doubts, it is proposed here that the International Commission:

(1) use its plenary powers

- (a) to validate the generic name *Siganus* as from Forsskål, 1775, and
- (b) to designate *Scarus rivulatus* Forsskål, 1775, as the type of that genus;

(2) place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the names

- (a) *Siganus* Forsskål, 1775 (gender: masculine), as validated under

- (1) (a) above, type-species, by designation under the plenary powers in (1) (b) above, *Scarus rivulatus* Forsskål, 1775;
- (b) *Scarus* Forsskål, 1775 (gender : masculine), type-species, by subsequent selection by Jordan & Gilbert (1882), *Scarus psittacus* Forsskål, 1775;
- (3) place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the names
 - (a) *rivulatus* Forsskål, 1775, as published in the binomen *Scarus rivulatus* (type-species of *Siganus* Forsskål, 1775);
 - (b) *psittacus* Forsskål, 1775, as published in the binomen *Scarus psittacus* (type-species of *Scarus* Forsskål, 1775);
- (4) place on the Official List of Family Group Names in Zoology the name SIGANIDAE Rutter, 1897 (type-genus *Siganus* Forsskål, 1775).